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SUBJECT: ANANDA MARG

REF: SUVA 688

1. THE ANANDA MARG WAS FOUNDED IN 1955 BY PRABHAT RANJAN SARKAR, ALIAS "BABA" OR ANANDA MURTHIJI, AND ADVOCATES THE OVERTHROW OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND A TAKEOVER BY A GROUP CALLED "SADVIPPAS," AN ELITE SECTION OF ANANDA MARG. THE GROUP REPORTEDLY HAD INDICATED THAT SUCH OVERTHROW WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY BLOODY REVOLUTION. SARKAR HAS BEEN IMPRISONED SINCE 1971 ON CHARGES HE ORDERED THE MURDER OF SEVERAL DEFECTORS FROM THE ANANDA MARG. HE HAS SINCE BEEN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

2. A RAID ON THE GROUP'S HEADQUARTERS IN RANCHI, INDIA, IN 1976, RECOVERED GUNS, AMMUNITION, BOMB MANUFACTURING MATERIAL, AND HUMAN SKULLS.

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3. SARKAR CLAIMS TO BE THE INCARNATION OF GOD AND HIS PURPOSE IS TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT OF MORALISTS. HE HAS SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING HIS FOLLOWERS THAT HE HAS SUPERNATURAL POWERS AND CAN LIBERATE THEIR SOULS. ONCE THE ORGANIZATION GAINED SOME POPULARITY IT BECAME INVOLVED IN POLITICS. ONE OF ITS WINGS, THE PROUTIST

BLOCK OF INDIA (PBI) WAS REGISTERED WITH THE ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER. THE ORGANIZATION THEN REPORTEDLY STARTED A PARA-MILITARY CADRE TO GIVE TRAINING IN MILITARY DRILL, GUERRILLA WARFARE, ETC., TO ITS MEMBERS. SINCE 1968, ANANDA MARG STARTED OPENING BRANCHES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES UNDER THE GUISE OF YOGA SOCIETIES, PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS, AND RELIEF CENTERS. SOME OF THE FOREIGN DISCIPLES HAVE TRAVELED TO INDIA FOR INSTRUCTION.

4. ANANDA MARG ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1971 WHEN ACHARYA YATISHWARANANDA AVADHOOT, ALIAS R. VENKATANARAYAN, WAS SENT TO PROPAGATE THE GROUP'S PHILOSOPHY. THE HEADQUARTERS WERE ESTABLISHED IN WICHITA, KANSAS, UNDER THE NAME OF THE ANANDA MARGA YOGA SOCIETY OF USA. IN 1973 THE SOCIETY BOUGHT ITS OWN THREE-STORY BUILDING AT 854 PEARL STREET, DENVER, COLORADO, AND MOVED ITS HEADQUARTERS THERE.

5. THE ANANDA MARGA YOGA SOCIETY IS SELF-DESCRIBED AS A GROUP WHOSE MEMBERS ATTEMPT, THROUGH SELF-DISCIPLINE AND MEDITATION, TO FIND ECSTASY AND INNER PEACE. IN 1975 THE SOCIETY CLAIMED TO HAVE 80 BRANCHES IN THE U.S. IN 1972 AND 1973, IT ENGAGED IN DEMONSTRATIONS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, PROTESTING THE JAILING OF ITS SPIRITUAL LEADER, SHRII SHRII ANANDAMURTI (SARKAR). THESE DEMONSTRATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE PEACEFUL; HOWEVER, A DEMONSTRATION AT THE INDIAN EMBASSY ON APRIL 23, 1973, RESULTED IN THE ARREST OF TWO SOCIETY MEMBERS. THEY WERE CHARGED WITH "DEPOSITING OF TRASH IN A PUBLIC PLACE" AFTER THEY ATTEMPTED TO DELIVER TO THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR THE ASHES OF A MONK WHO HAD IMMOLATED HIMSELF. IN THE PROCESS, THE CONTAINER OF ASHES WAS DROPPED AND BROKE ON THE EMBASSY STEPS.

6. AS OF JANUARY 1977, THE SOCIETY HAS KNOWN CENTERS LOCATED AT 412 PACIFIC STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK; 1750 COLUMBIA ROAD, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C.; AND IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. FROM THE WASHINGTON LOCATION THEY PUBLISH A MONTHLY PAPER, THE UNIVERSAL TIMES.

7. IN LATE 1976, SARKAR CLAIMED TO HAVE EIGHT MILLION FOLLOWERS IN INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, THE PHILIPPINES, AND AUSTRALIA. VANCE

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